AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-67. (canceled)

68. (currently amended) A dried composition that is stable ~~for weeks~~ on storage at room temperature consisting essentially of granules comprising extruded microorganisms which are fungi ~~or bacteria~~ of the genus *Mortierella*, wherein said fungi ~~or bacteria~~ are dead ~~and non-disrupted~~ and wherein the granules in the composition have a porosity generated by drying of said granules and have a diameter between 0.1 millimeters to 12 millimeters.

69-71. (canceled)

72. (currently amended) The granule composition of ~~claim 71~~ claim 68, wherein the fungi are *Mortierella alpina*.

73-75. (canceled)

76. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the granules comprise a polyunsaturated fatty acid.

77. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 76, wherein the polyunsaturated fatty acid is contained in a lipid.

78. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 76, wherein the polyunsaturated fatty acid is a C18, C20 or C22 ω-3-polyunsaturated fatty acid or a C18, C20 or C22 ω-6-polyunsaturated fatty acid.

79. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 78, wherein the polyunsaturated fatty acid is a C20 or C22 ω-3-polyunsaturated fatty acid or a C20 or C22 ω-6-polyunsaturated fatty acid.

80. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the granules comprise arachidonic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, docosahexaenoic acid, or a combination of the foregoing.

81. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the granules comprise tetra-acetyl-phyto-sphingosine.

82. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the granules comprise a vitamin.

83. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the granules have a dry matter content of 80% or more.

84. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the granules have a dry matter content of 30% to 70%.

85. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the granules are obtained by extruding a biomass having a dry matter content of 25% to 80%.

86. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the granules are obtained by mechanical extrusion.

87. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the diameter of the granules is 0.3 millimeters to 10 millimeters.

88. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the diameter of the granules is 1.5 millimeters to 6 millimeters.

89. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the diameter of the granules is 2 millimeters to 3 millimeters.

90. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the length of the granules is on average 2 to 6 times the diameter.

91. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the porosity of the granules is 15% to 50%.

92. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the porosity of the granules is 20% to 40%.

93. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the porosity of the granules is 25% to 35%.

94. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the porosity of the granules allows solvent access.

95. (previously presented) The granule composition of claim 68, wherein the granules are free flowing.

96. (new) A process for the isolation of one or more compound(s) from a microbial biomass which comprises fungi of the genus *Mortierella* that has produced such a compound, the process comprising:

a) providing, or obtaining a biomass with a dry matter content of from 25 to 80%;

b) granulating the biomass into a granular particles having an average dry matter content of from 25 to 80%;

c) drying the granular particles to give dried granules defined in claim 68 having an average dry matter content of at least 80%; and

d) purifying, extracting or isolating the or each compound from the dried granules resulting from (c).

97. (new) The process according to claim 96 wherein in (b) the granulation is effected by extrusion of the biomass.

98. (new) The process according to claim 97 wherein the biomass is subjected to crumbling or kneading before granulation.

99. (new) The process according to claim 96 wherein the biomass in (a) is obtained by solid/liquid separation performed on a fermentation broth.

100. (new) The process according to claim 99 wherein the solid/liquid separation is combined with mechanical dewatering.

101. (new) The process according to claim 96 wherein in (a) the biomass with a dry matter content of 25 to 80% is obtained by:

i) the addition of a solid material to the biomass; or

ii) dewatering of the biomass.

102. (new) The process according to claim 96 wherein the drying of the granulated biomass in (c) to a dry matter content of at least 80% is performed by fluidized bed or subfluidized bed drying or vacuum drying.

103. (new) The process according to claim 96 wherein the fungus is *Mortierella alpina*.

104. (new) The process according to claim 96 wherein the compound is a polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA), optionally contained in a lipid.

105. (new) The process according to claim 104, wherein the polyunsaturated fatty acid is a C18, C20 or C22 ω-3 or a C18, C20 or C22 ω-6 polyunsaturated fatty acid.

106. (new) The process according to claim 105 wherein the compound is a C20 or C22 ω-3 or C20 or C22 ω-6 polyunsaturated fatty acid.

107. (new) The process according to claim 96 wherein the compound is arachidonic acid (ARA), eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and/or docosahexaenoic acid (DHA).

108. (new) The process according to claim 96 wherein the compound is a carotenoid or a HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor (*e.g.*, lovastatin, pravastatin or compactin).

109. (new) The process according to claim 96 wherein the compound is tetra-acetyl-phyto-sphingosine (TAPS).

110. (new) The process according to claim 96 wherein the compound is a vitamin.

111. (new) The process according to claim 96 wherein the biomass is obtained from a fermentation broth after acidification.

112. (new) The process according to claim 111 wherein acidification results in precipitation of the compound.

113. (new) The process for the isolation of one or more compound(s) from granules of biomass, the process comprising:

a) providing dried granules defined in claim 68 having a dry matter content of at least 80%, the granules having been derived from a microbial biomass comprising microorganisms that have produced such a compound; and

b) extracting or isolating the or each compound from the dried granules by solvent extraction.

114. (new) A dried composition that is stable on storage at room temperature comprising granules comprising extruded microorganisms which are fungi of the genus *Mortierella*, wherein

said fungi are dead and wherein the granules in the composition have a porosity generated by drying of said granules and have a diameter between 0.1 millimeters to 12 millimeters.